

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 05696 070645Z

15

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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O 070605Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2212

S E C R E T BANGKOK 5696

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MAR, TH

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT REDEPLOYMENT

REF: A) STATE 070242; B) BANGKOK 5131; C) JCS 7354/061912Z
APR 74; D) BANGKOK 5173

1. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SUCCESS IN DELAYING EXECUTION OF
ROTATION OF ONE TDY A-7 SQUADRON WHICH WOULD, IN EFFECT, BEGIN
TACAIR WITHDRAWAL AHEAD OF SCHEDULE DISCUSSED WITH RTG. WE
SPECIFIED IN JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT ON FORCE REDUCTIONS (REFTEL B)
THAT DETAILS OF WITHDRAWALS WILL BE WORKED OUT IN DISCUSSION
BETWEEN RTG AND EMBASSY.

2. RE PARA 2 OF REFTTEL A, IT IS HARD TO CONCEIVE WHAT EFFECTIVE
STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT THAIS DO NOT LEARN OF
PROPOSED DRAWDOWNS. WE SHOULD RATHER ASSUME THAT THAIS WILL
PROMPTLY GET WIND OF DRAWDOWNS AND FAIL TO SEE JUSTIFICATION
FOR RISKING UNFAVORABLE REACTION BY OUR FAILURE TO UPHOLD
OUR COMMITMENT TO CONSULT WITH THEM IN ADVANCE.

3. DURING MY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE
SUPREME COMMAND CONCERNING US FORCE REDUCTIONS THEY MADE
IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR FORCE CHANGES MUST
APPEAR TO COME FROM THE RTG. THE WITHDRAWAL OF ONE SQUADRON
A MONTH AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULE DATE COULD ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS

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IN THE RTG ABOUT OUR ADHERENCE TO THE ENTIRE DRAWDOWN PLAN.

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